

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 6-13, 16-22, 26-33, 36-49 and 60-62 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 13, 22, 33, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 60-62 being independent.

Claims 2, 14, 23 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1, 13, 22, 33, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 60-62 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim 1-2, 6-14, 16-23, 26-34, 36-49, and 60-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. While not conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments and submit that the antecedent basis for the objected to phrases is now even clearer. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-2, 6, 13-14, 22-23, 26, 33-34, 42-49 and 60-62, were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 (Ginter et al.). Claims 7-10, 16-19, 27-30 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,372 (Lewis et al.). Claims 11-12, 20-21, 31-32 and 40-41 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter et al. and Lewis et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,797 (Fields et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of receiving from a client, in a case where a client cannot process a first intellectual property right protection system, change request information for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system, changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system, and changing information uniquely specifying the first intellectual property right protection system to information uniquely specifying the second intellectual property right protection system. With these features, even if different kinds of intellectual property right protection systems are used in a system, the protection system can be easily changed to a protection system that a client can process, and the information uniquely specifying which protection system is used is also changed so the client easily recognizes the protection system being used. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Ginter et al. discloses that the content creator first creates and transmits the rules and controls (CA) to the distributor, and the distributor then changes the received CA to the rules and controls (DA (CA)) and transmits it to a content user. However, that reference is silent about the problem where the client's device cannot process the protection system used to protect the content, so that the content cannot be reproduced correctly. Therefore, that reference also fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of receiving, in a case where the client cannot process a first intellectual property right protection system, change request information for changing the first intellectual property right protection system to a second intellectual property right protection system.

The other cited art fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. The other independent claims recite similar features and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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